

# CFSR 3 Measures: Definitions and Examples

## Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Out-of-Home Care

DEFINITION

The number of children entering out-of-home care (OHC) in a 12-month period (or the *observation window*) serves as the denominator. Of these children, the number of children who discharged to permanency within 12 months of their individual entry date (or their *individual outcome window*) are included in the numerator.

$$\frac{\text{Children who discharged to permanency within 12 months of their individual entry}}{\text{Children who enter out-of-home care in a 12-month period (e.g., January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014)}} \times 100\%$$

For the purposes of this memo, the **observation window** always refers to the time period that determines the children included in the denominator. The **outcome window** (sometimes **individual outcome window**) always determines whether the child is included in the numerator.

In the example below, calendar year 2014 is the **observation window** (represented by the blue box). This means that all children entering OHC in 2014 are included in the denominator. Of these children, those who exit to permanency within their **individual outcome windows** (represented by the black line and hash-marks) are included in the numerator.

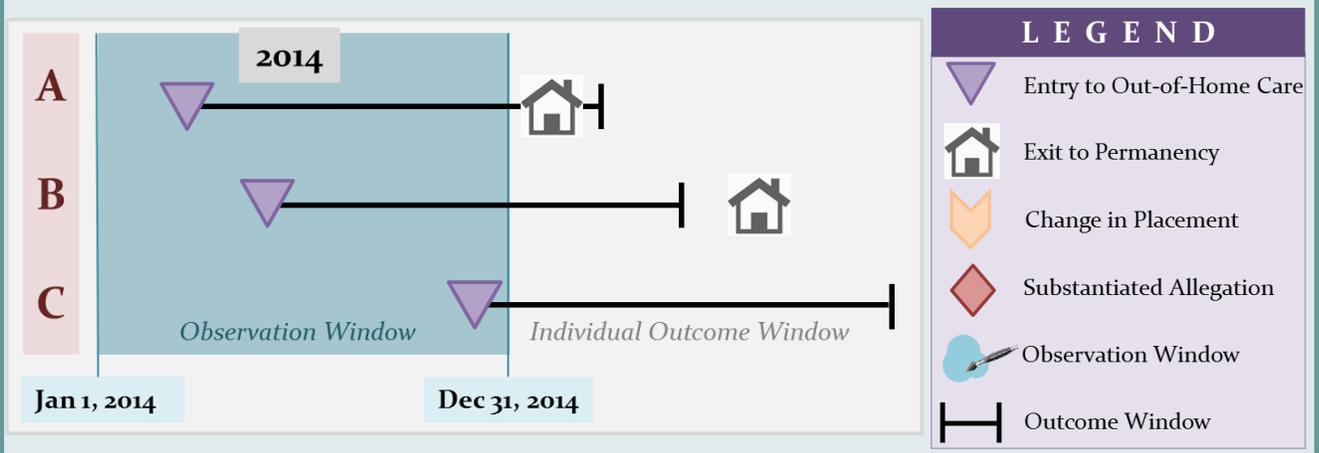
EXAMPLE

**Child A** enters OHC in March 2014 and exits in January 2015, before her 12-month mark (or within her individual outcome window). Since Child A entered in 2014 and discharged within 12 months of her entry date, she is included in both the denominator and numerator of the permanency measure.

**Child B** enters in July 2014, but does not reach permanency until September 2015, which is past 12 months of his entry date. Therefore, Child B is included in the denominator but not the numerator.

**Child C** enters OHC in December 2014 and is still in OHC as of September 2016. As such, Child C is included in the denominator, but not the numerator.

If only children A, B, and C entered OHC in 2014, the permanency measure can be calculated using the following formula:  $A / (A+B+C) \times 100\%$ , or 33.3%.



OUTCOME

The current federal standard for this measure is **40.5%**. In 2014, 4,876 children entered OHC in Wisconsin. Of these children, 1,915 children discharged to permanency within 12 months of their individual entry dates. Wisconsin's statistic for children entering OHC in 2014 (or using 2014 as the observation window) is **39.3%** ( $= 1,915/4,876$ ), which does not meet the standard. An **additional 60 children** would have had to discharge to permanency during this time period to meet the standard.

## Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12-23 Months

DEFINITION

The number of children who have been in out-of-home care (OHC) for 12-23 months on the first day of a 12-month period serves as the denominator. Of these children, the number who discharged to permanency within 12 months constitutes the numerator.

Children who discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day (e.g., by December 31, 2015)	X 100%
Children who have been in out-of-home care for 12-23 months on the first day of a 12-month period (e.g., January 1, 2015)	

In the example below, January 2, 2013—January 1, 2014 is the **observation window**. This means that all children entering OHC during this time are included in the denominator. Calendar year 2015 is the **outcome window** (this allows for children entering during the observation window to have been in care for 12-23 months on day 1 of the outcome window). Of these children, those who exit to permanency within the outcome window (by December 31, 2015) are included in the numerator.

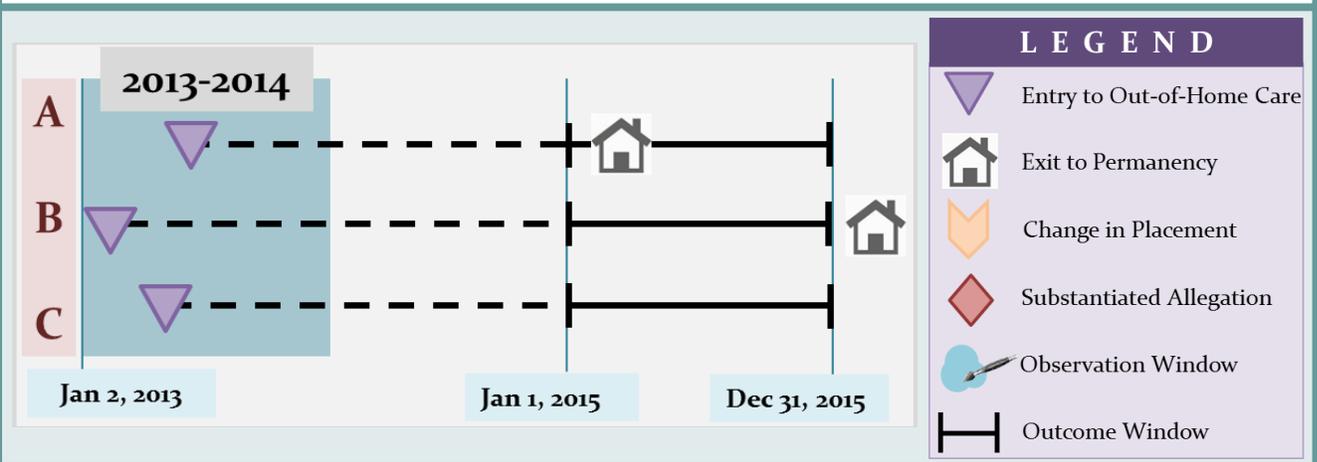
EXAMPLE

**Child A** entered OHC in July 2013 and exited to permanency in March 2015. On January 1, 2015, the start of the outcome window, she had been in OHC for 12-23 months and exited to permanency before December 31, 2015. Since Child A had been in care for 12-23 months and exited to permanency by the end of the designated outcome window (December 31, 2015), she is included in both the denominator and numerator of the permanency measure.

**Child B** had also been in care for 12-23 months as of January 1, 2015, but did not reach permanency until after December 31, 2015. Therefore, Child B is included in the denominator but not included in the numerator.

**Child C** had been in OHC for 12-23 months on January 1, 2015, but is currently still in OHC as of September 2016. As such, Child C is included in the denominator, but not the numerator.

If children A, B, and C comprise the entire OHC population, the permanency measure can be calculated using the following formula:  $A / (A+B+C) \times 100\%$ , or 33.3%.



OUTCOME

The federal standard for this measure is **43.6%**. On January 1, 2015, 3,288 children had been in OHC for 12-23 months, of which 1,405 children discharged to permanency by December 31, 2015. Wisconsin's statistic using 2015 as the outcome window is **42.7%** ( $=1405/3288$ ), which does not meet the standard. An **additional 29 children** would have had to discharge to permanency during this time period to meet the standard.

## Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24+ Months

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The number of children who have been in out-of-home care (OHC) for 24+ months on the first day of a 12-month period serves as the denominator. Of these children, the number of children who discharged to permanency within 12 months constitutes the numerator.

Children who discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day (e.g., December 31, 2015)

Children who have been in out-of-home care for 24+ months on the first day of a 12-month period (e.g., January 1, 2015)

X 100%

*In the example below, pre-2013 (or up to December 31, 2012) is the **observation window**. This means that all children entering OHC during this time are included in the denominator. Calendar year 2015 is the **outcome window** (this allows for children entering during the observation window to have been in care for 24+ months on day 1 of the outcome window). Of these children, those who exit to permanency within the outcome window (by December 31, 2015) are included in the numerator.*

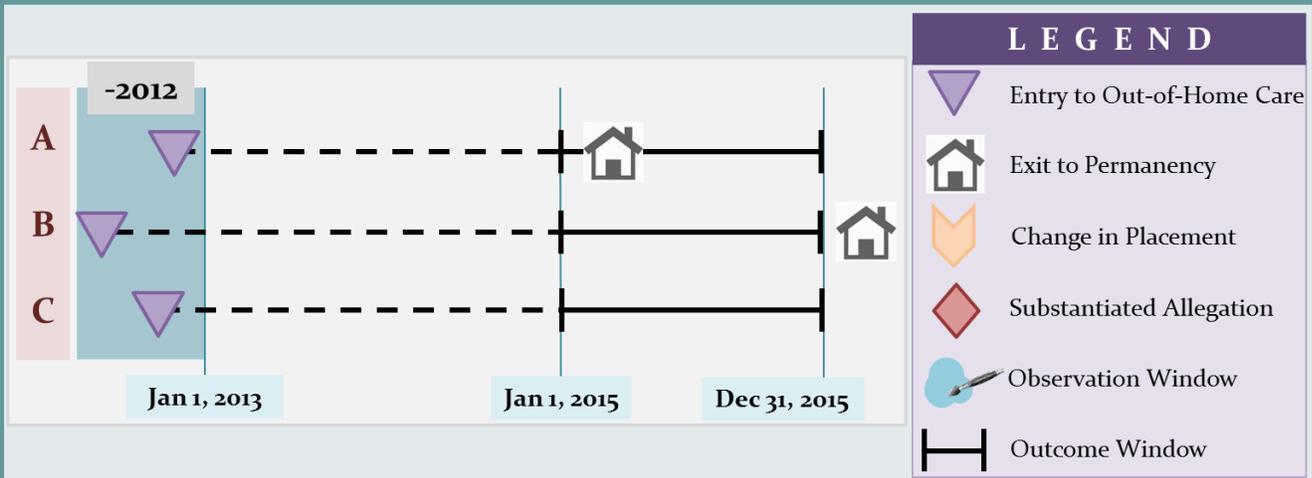
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**Child A** entered OHC in October 2012, and exited to permanency in March 2015. As of January 1, 2015, Child A had been in OHC for 24+ months. Since Child A had been in care for 24+ months and exited to permanency by the end of the designated 12-month period (or before December 31, 2015), she is included in both the denominator and numerator of the permanency measure.

**Child B** had also been in care for 24+ months as of January 1, 2015, but did not reach permanency until after December 31, 2015. Therefore, Child B is included in the denominator but not included in the numerator.

**Child C** had been in OHC for 24+ months on January 1, 2015, but is currently still in OHC as of September 2016. As such, Child C is included in the denominator, but not the numerator.

If children A, B, and C comprise the entire OHC population, the permanency measure can be calculated using the following formula:  $A / (A+B+C) \times 100\%$ , or 33.3%.



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The federal standard for this measure is **30.3%**. On January 1, 2015, 3,189 children had been in OHC for at least 24 months, of which 1,322 children discharged to permanency by December 31, 2015. Wisconsin's statistic using 2015 as the outcome window is **41.5%** (or 1322/3189), which meets the standard. Wisconsin's outcome exceeds the benchmark by **356 children**.

## Re-Entry into Out-of-Home Care

DEFINITION

The number of children who entered out-of-home care (OHC) in a 12-month period and exited within 12 months of their individual entry serves as the denominator; note that these are the children who comprise the numerator for the “Permanency in 12 Months for Children entering OHC” measure. Of these children, those who re-entered care within 12 months of their individual exit make up the numerator.

$$\frac{\text{Children who re-enter care within 12 months of their discharge}}{\text{Children who entered out-of-home care in a 12-month period, who discharged within 12 months of their individual entry}} \times 100\%$$

In the example below, calendar year 2013 is the **observation window**. This means that all children who (1) entered OHC in 2013, and (2) exited to permanency within 12 months of their individual entry date are included in the denominator. The 12-month period starting from a child’s exit to permanency is the **individual outcome window**. Of the children included in the denominator, those who re-entered OHC within their individual outcome window are included in the numerator.

EXAMPLE

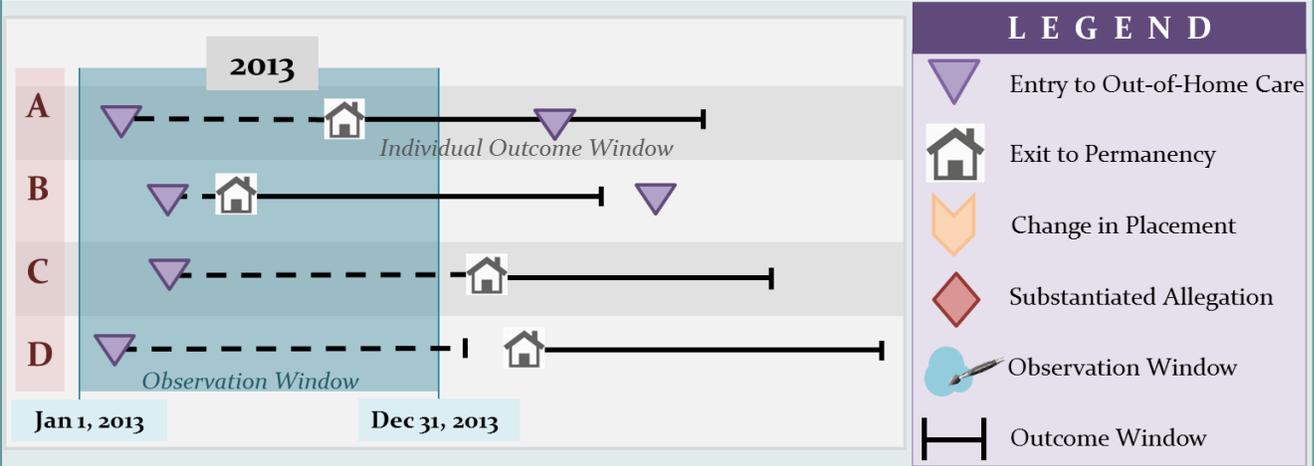
**Child A** enters in February 2013 and exits in October 2013 before her 12-month mark; Child A then re-enters in May 2014, within 12 months of her exit to permanency. Since Child A entered in 2013 and discharged within 12 months of her entry, she is included in the denominator. Since Child A re-entered within 12 months of her exit to permanency, she is also included in the numerator.

**Child B** enters OHC in March 2013 and exits within 12 months of his entry in May 2013, but does not re-enter OHC until July 2014, which is after 12 months of his exit. Therefore, Child B is included in the denominator but not the numerator.

**Child C** enters OHC in March 2013 and exits within 12 months of his entry in January 2014. As of September 2016, Child C has not re-entered OHC. As such, Child C is included in the denominator, but not the numerator.

**Child D** enters OHC in February 2013, but does not exit until after 12 months of his entry in March 2014. As such, Child D is excluded from the denominator and numerator.

If only children A, B, C, and D entered OHC in 2013, the permanency measure can be calculated using the following formula:  $A / (A+B+C) \times 100\%$ , which is 33.3%. Please note that this metric examines children re-entering OHC. As such, **a smaller percent represents a more favorable outcome**.



OUTCOME

The federal standard for this measure is **8.3%**. Of the children who entered OHC in 2013, 1,951 children exited within 12 months of their individual entry dates. 199 of these children re-entered OHC within 12 months of their individual exit dates. Wisconsin’s statistic for the children entering OHC in 2013 (or the 2013 entry cohort) is **10.2%** (=199/1951), which does not meet the standard. During this time period, **38 fewer** children would have had to re-enter OHC to meet the standard.

## Placement Stability

DEFINITION

The number of days in out-of-home care (OHC) for children who entered OHC during a 12-month time period serves as the denominator. Of these days, the number of placement moves that took place during this time constitutes the numerator. *The measure is expressed as a rate per 1,000 days in care.*

$$\frac{\text{Total placement moves}}{\text{Total number of days in out-of-home care for children who enter during a 12-month period (e.g., January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015), as of the end of the 12-month period (e.g., December 31, 2015)}} \times 1000 \text{ Days}$$

*In the example below, calendar year 2015 is both the **observation window** and **outcome window**. The number of days spent in OHC during 2015 among children who entered OHC in 2015 is the denominator. The number of placement moves that occurred during these days is the numerator.*

EXAMPLE

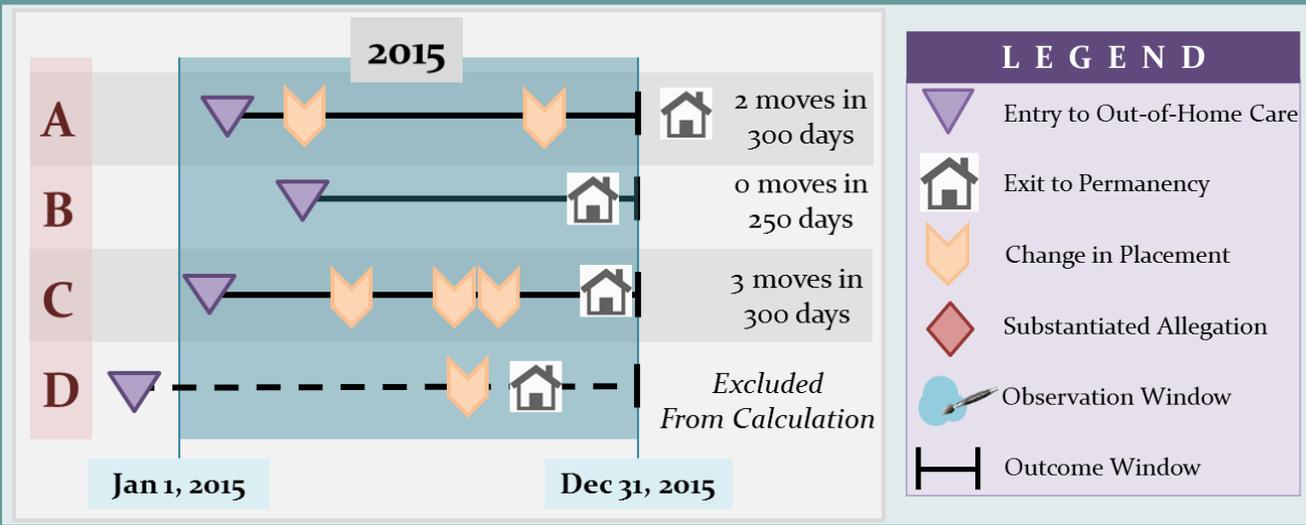
**Child A** enters OHC in March 2015 and has 3 OHC placements (or 2 placement moves) during the 300 days she spent in OHC in 2015. Since Child A entered OHC in 2015, both her total number of days in OHC and placement moves count towards the denominator and numerator, respectively.

**Child B** enters OHC in April 2015 and exits to permanency in December 2015. He spends his entire 250-day stay in OHC at one placement, equaling 0 placement moves.

**Child C** enters and exits OHC in 2015. During his 300-day stay in OHC, he moves 3 times.

**Child D** enters OHC in November 2014. He is excluded from the calculation, because he entered OHC outside the observation window.

If only children A, B, and C entered OHC in 2015, the placement stability measure can be calculated using the following formula:  $[(2+0+3 \text{ moves}) / (300+250+300 \text{ days})] \times 1,000 \text{ days}$ , or **5.88 moves per 1,000 days**. Please note that this metric examines OHC placement moves. As such, a **smaller rate represents a more favorable outcome**.



OUTCOME

The federal standard for this measure is **4.12 moves per 1,000 days** in OHC. In calendar year 2015, 691,917 days total were spent in OHC for those children entering OHC in 2015. During these days, there were 3,229 placement moves. Wisconsin's statistic for the children entering OHC in 2015 (or the 2015 entry cohort) is **4.67 moves per 1,000 days** (= 3229 placement moves / 691917 days x 1,000 days), which does not meet the standard. During this time period, **379 fewer placement moves** would have had to take place to meet the standard.

## Maltreatment in Out-of-Home Care

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The number of children in out-of-home care (OHC) during a 12-month time period serves as the denominator. The number of substantiated allegations (or maltreatment incidents) that occurred during these days constitute the numerator. *The measure is expressed as a rate per 100,000 days in OHC.*

$$\frac{\text{Number of substantiated allegation during the time period}}{\text{Total number of days in out-of-home care for children in care during a 12-month period (e.g., January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015), as of the end of the 12-month period (e.g., December 31, 2015)}} \times 100,000 \text{ Days}$$

*In the example below, calendar year 2015 is both the **observation window** and **outcome window**. This means that the number of days spent in OHC during 2015 for all children who were in OHC at some point in 2015 are included in the denominator. All substantiated allegations that occurred during these days are included the numerator.*

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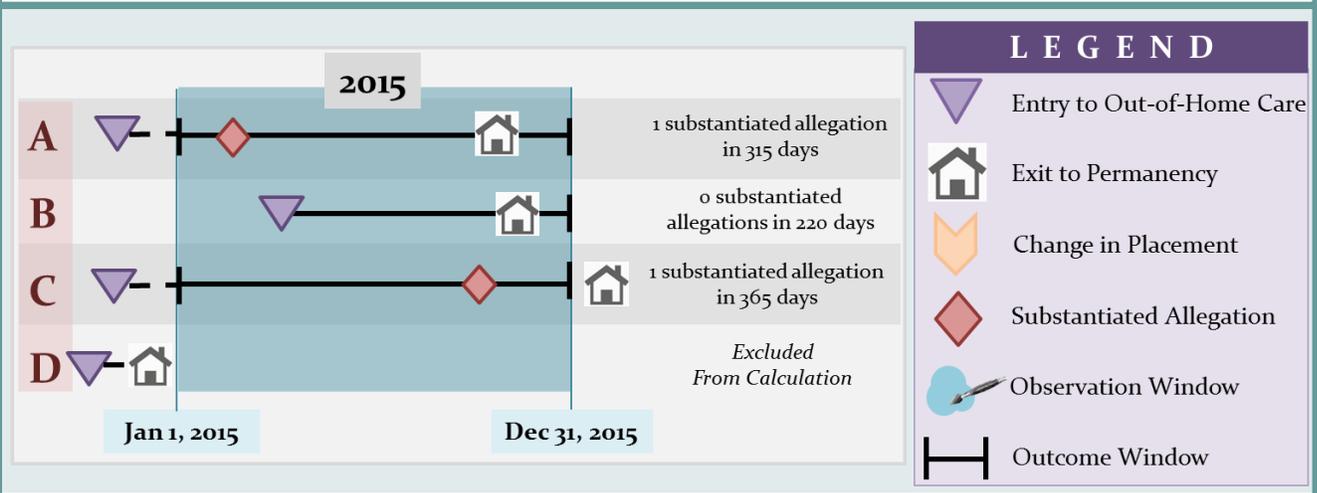
**Child A** entered OHC in November 2014, and exited in October 2015. During the 315 days spent in OHC in 2015, she had 1 substantiated allegation. Since Child A is in OHC at some point in 2015 and her maltreatment incident occurs during the outcome window, her total number of days spent in OHC during 2015 and maltreatment incident both count towards the maltreatment measure.

**Child B** had no substantiated allegations during his entire 220-day stay in OHC during 2015.

**Child C** had 1 substantiated allegation during his 365-day OHC stay in 2015.

**Child D** entered and exited OHC in 2014. As such, she is excluded from the calculation.

If only children A, B, and C were in OHC during 2015, the maltreatment measure can be calculated using the following formula:  $[(1+1 \text{ maltreatments}) / (315+220+365 \text{ days})] \times 100,000 \text{ days}$ , or 222 victimizations per 100,000 days in care. Please note that this metric examines number of substantiated maltreatment incidents. As such, **a smaller rate represents a more favorable outcome.**



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The federal standard for this measure is **8.5 victimizations per 100,000 days in care**. In calendar year 2015, 2,454,802 days total were spent in OHC. During these days, there were 76 substantiated allegations of maltreatment. Wisconsin’s statistic for the children in OHC during 2015 is **3.10 victimizations per 100,000 days** (or 76 substantiations / 2,454,802 days in OHC), which meets the standard. Wisconsin exceeded the benchmark by **130 maltreatments** during this time period.

## Recurrence of Maltreatment

DEFINITION

The number of children with a substantiated allegation during a 12-month period serves as the denominator. Of these children, the number of children with subsequent substantiated allegations within a 12-month period of their initial maltreatment incident is included in the numerator.

Children with subsequent substantiated allegation within 12 months of initial substantiated allegation

Children with a substantiated allegation during a 12-month period (e.g., January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015)

X 100%

*In the example below, calendar year 2014 is the **observation window**. This means that children with a substantiated allegation in 2014 are included in the denominator; **note that this includes all children, not children in OHC**. The 12-month period starting from the child's initial substantiated allegation is the **individual outcome window**. Of the children included in the denominator, those with subsequent substantiated allegations within their individual outcome windows are included in the numerator.*

EXAMPLE

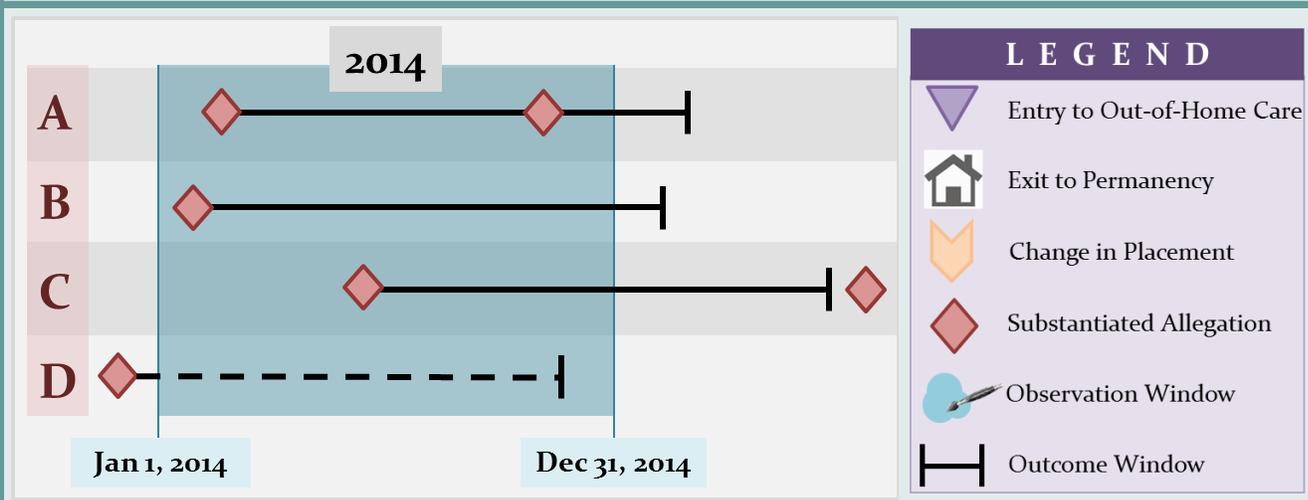
**Child A** has a substantiated allegation in February 2014, and has a subsequent incident within 12 months of her initial incident on November 2014. Since Child A's initial maltreatment incident occurs in 2014 *and* her subsequent incident occurs within 12 months of her initial incident, she is included in both the denominator and numerator.

**Child B** has no subsequent substantiated allegation following his initial maltreatment incident that occurred in January 2014. Child B is thus included in the denominator, but not the numerator.

**Child C** has a subsequent substantiated allegation, but it occurs outside the outcome window.

**Child D** has no substantiated allegation in 2014. As such, she is excluded from the calculation.

If only children A, B, and C were maltreated in 2014, the recurrence of maltreatment measure can be calculated using the following formula: [(1 child with subsequent maltreatment incident) / (3 children with a substantiated allegation)] x 100%, or 33.3%. Please note that this metric examines the recurrence of maltreatment. As such, a **smaller percent represents a more favorable outcome**.



OUTCOME

The federal standard for this measure is **9.1%**. Of the 4,218 children with initial substantiated maltreatment incidents in 2014, 186 children had subsequent incidents within 12 months. Wisconsin's statistic for calendar year 2015 is **4.4%** (=186 children with subsequent substantiated maltreatment / 4,218 initial children with substantiated maltreatment), which meets the standard. Wisconsin's outcome exceeds the benchmark by **198 fewer children maltreated** than the federal standard.